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November 21, 1996

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FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

Federal Elections Commission  
Office of the General Counsel  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Nov 22 10 26 AM '96  
FAX No. (202) 219-3923  
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COMMENTS  
AOR 1996-47

Re: AOR 1996-47 (Reform Party)

Dear Sirs:

I strongly urge your recognition of the National Reform Party Steering Committee as a national committee of a political party under the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I attended all three meetings to promote the formation of the national Reform Party because I, along with everyone else present, was concerned about the party's future. I know that extreme diligence and care was taken by the group's credentials committee to invite the appropriate people from all 50 states to the September 28 meeting in Illinois. I also know that California's board of directors (appointed by Ross Perot) refused to acknowledge the benefit or legitimacy of the Illinois meeting, so I attended as an observer rather than part of an official delegation.

My concern for the party's future evolves from the many long hours I spent working as a volunteer out of the California Reform Party headquarters in Los Angeles where I saw firsthand that the Party is not as it was promised to be -- a new political party that "will belong to the people who create it." If that were true, the staff in the Los Angeles office (paid by Ross Perot) would have been unbiased in the presidential nomination process. Instead they openly and blatantly promoted their employer's candidacy in an obvious conflict of interest. (And was it just a coincidence that states with strong support for Gov. Lamm received only a fraction of their promised ballots?) And, if the party is to belong to the people who create it, why is Ross Perot trying to thwart their efforts to create a democratic, self-governing, free-standing national political party, especially when he was carefully advised of every step the group took?

Everyone in the Reform Party I am sure is extremely grateful to Ross Perot for bringing reform-minded citizens together and financially supporting the Reform Party's formation. But it must not be overlooked that the idea could not have come into fruition without the tremendous time, energy and personal financial contributions made by its thousands of volunteers. I am beginning to feel that I was duped into spending so much time and energy in this effort, only for the party to be at the whim of one person. I trusted Ross Perot when he said the new party "was not about me" and "we need a new face." Yet when a "new face" was found, Perot decided it was about him after all.

Not only do we lose credibility if we are perceived as a one-man party but we will disintegrate when that one man has run his course. We in the National Reform Party Caucus and Steering Committee want to ensure that the party will endure beyond that one man and belong to the people who created it, and to their grandchildren.

We hope you will agree that all appropriate steps have been taken to form the national Reform Party.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Guillot*  
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